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ESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT 1918.

BY

Dr JOHN STEELE.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

-and-

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDANT

TO THE SANATORIUM.

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Eaton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I herewith submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Urban District of Eaton during the year 1916, the fourth medical report presented to you since the amalgamation of the Urban Districts of South Bank in Monmouth and Eaton which took place on April 1st 1915.

Owing to this report following so closely upon the end of the War and the unsettled nature of all things around us I have endeavoured to confine the report as far as possible to matters which have taken place in the District and have omitted several details and suggestions of improvement which we are in need of.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for the ready support I have received from each Member of the Council since I first took up my duties as Medical Superintendant of the Sanatorium and Medical Officer of Health for the District.

I am,

Gentlemen.

Your obedient Servant.

John Steel.

Leona Terrace.
South Bank.
April 30th 1917.



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Area of the District. 4553 acres.

Inhabited houses. 5841.

Population, Estimated for the purpose of this report 30,000.

Average number of persons per house. 5.13.

Scavenging.

Owing to the shortage of labour the work of scavenging both night and day has been a very difficult matter, as far as possible the times of emptying the pans has been adhered to and very few complaints have reached me of neglect. I have every confidence in hoping that with the return of labour we shall soon be in a position to carry on the work in a regular manner.

Slaughter Houses.

During the past year all the slaughter houses in the district have been visited. As far as possible they are kept in a clean state but in every case the slaughter houses are much too near to dwelling houses.

I feel that I must draw your attention once more to the urgent need in the district for a public slaughter house, both on the grounds of health and to enable the Inspector to examine all meat for consumption, which is not possible with private slaughter houses.

General Sanitary Work.

During the past year 440 notices have been served viz,

Defective and blocked drains	93
Defective Privy Pans and Doors.	280
Structural Defects.	26
Notices not classed above.	41

Births.

During last year there were 920 births registered in the district, of these 444 were males and 476 females, equal to a birth rate of 30.6 per thousand population.

The births for 1918 show an increase of 190 over those for 1917.

Still Births.

During last year the bodies of 26 still born children were buried in the Cemetery for the district, the numbers for the various quarters being 4, 12, 4, and 6 respectively.

Deaths.

In 1918 569 deaths were registered, this shows an increase on the previous year of 119 deaths, and a death rate for the district of 18.9 per thousand population.

On dividing the deaths into age groups I find
106 deaths occurred under 1 year of age.
127 over one year and under 10 years.
33 over ten years and under 20 years.
104 over twenty and under forty years.
105 over forty and under sixty years, and 94 deaths occurred of persons over 60 years of age.

1892

$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2}$

The chief causes of death during the year were Tuberculosis, Pneumonia and Heart troubles.

Influenza.

One of the chief primary causes of death during the past year was INFLUENZA or what is termed Spanish Influenza.

Nearly the whole of the country was visited by the epidemic and I do not think I can do better than repeat a special report which I made to this Council on August 14th last year.

The report read as follows:-

I beg to report that during part of June and July the country has been visited by an epidemic which has been termed Spanish Influenza.

The scourge was felt particularly bad in our own and the surrounding townships. The onset was very insidious and it partook more of the nature of a malarial disease.

The conditions were very favourable for the growth of the Bacillus there having been no rain for practically speaking over a month and the temperature of the district was practically tropical.

The attack was followed in many cases by pneumonia and as all ages were attacked the death rate was considerably raised. Many of these deaths could have been avoided if ordinary precautions had been followed. Many followed out the sweating course, and exposed themselves too early, and thereby prepared a good groundwork for Pneumonia to supervene. It was noticed very particularly that though the days were very warm the nights were raw and cold.

During the first week in July there were four deaths attributable to the disease, giving a death rate of 1.6 per thousand of the population.

During the second week there were 22 deaths attributable to the disease, giving a death rate of 8.8 per thousand, per annum, of the population.

During the third week there were 2 deaths and during the rest of the month there was one death attributable to the disease.

The total number of deaths being 29, this shows a death rate for that disease of 11.8 per thousand per annum of the population.

In concluding my report I feel that it is only right that I should draw the attention of the Council to the state of the pans in the district, many are leaking and causing streams of sewage in the back streets, causing smells, and spreading discomfort in the neighbourhood, as well as forming a breeding ground for microbes.

There have been several complaints that the pans were not emptied until they became a nuisance, though I might say that on applying to the foreman, the matter has been put right.

Though the Sanitary Staff has been very much depleted I consider that the back streets, more particularly round the pan entrances could be made very much cleaner and sweeter.

This concludes the report that I gave to the Council and I would only like to add that in November we were again visited by the epidemic, specimens of the sputum were taken from the patients and sent for Bacteriological examination and were identified as Sceptic Pneumonia.

Coroners Inquests.

Inquests were held during the year respecting 35 persons viz:-
Accidents 23. Sudden deaths 3. Violent Deaths 3. and 6 deaths were due to enemy action.

The 23 accidents were mostly caused in the Works and in the Mines, and the 6 deaths due to enemy action were caused by torpedoes which struck British ships which were brought into port.

—(Continued)—

The first of these is the fact that the American Medical Association has been successful in securing the passage of the Federal Food and Drug Act, which is a landmark in the history of the regulation of the food and drug industry. This act is a result of the persistent efforts of the American Medical Association and its members, who have been successful in securing the passage of this act, which is a landmark in the history of the regulation of the food and drug industry. The act is a result of the persistent efforts of the American Medical Association and its members, who have been successful in securing the passage of this act, which is a landmark in the history of the regulation of the food and drug industry.

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Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths under one year of age during the year was 106 corresponding to a mortality rate of 115.2 per thousand births.

This number shows an increase of 26 deaths on the previous year. The chief causes of death under one year of age was due to debility at birth, Prematurity, and Pneumonia.

Infectious Disease.

During the past year 221 cases of infectious disease were notified, exclusive of measles which is a decrease of 106 cases on the previous year.

On dividing these into groups I find that the following were notified.

Diphtheria.	66
Scarlet Fever.	34
Erysipelas.	12
Enteric Fever.	3
Continued Fever.	5
Ophthalmic Neonatorium.	5
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	70
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	24

Measles.

During the year 209 cases of measles were notified, 159 of these occurred at Eston, there is no doubt that the epidemic was spread was mostly by contact, but I am pleased that it did not spread very far outside the area seeing that only 26 cases were reported at Normanby, 19 at South Bank and five at Grangetown.

Diphtheria.

66 cases of diphtheria were notified, equal to a rate of 2.2 per thousand population.

49 cases were treated in the Sanatorium and 5 deaths occurred which is very low considering that most of the cases were of a serious nature when admitted and the number of cases notified.

Scarlet Fever.

During 1917 154 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, last year we only had 34 cases in our district, 32 of these were admitted to the Sanatorium, and there were no deaths from this disease during the year, which is most satisfactory.

Other cases of infectious disease notified were very few in number and the outbreaks were of a sporadic nature.

Tuberculosis.

Altogether 94 cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year which is about the same number as the previous year. I would like to draw attention here to the fact that a dispensary has been opened in our district where patients can receive free attendance, and it is to be hoped that those suffering from tuberculosis will avail themselves of the treatment offered.

1890

The first of the year was a very dry one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very hot, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very hot, and the crops were much injured.

1891

The second of the year was a very wet one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very cold, and the crops were much injured.

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The third of the year was a very dry one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very hot, and the crops were much injured.

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The fourth of the year was a very wet one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very cold, and the crops were much injured.

1903

The fifth of the year was a very dry one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very hot, and the crops were much injured.

1904

The sixth of the year was a very wet one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very cold, and the crops were much injured.

1905

The seventh of the year was a very dry one, and the crops were much injured. The weather was very hot, and the crops were much injured.

Sanatorium.

During the past year 92 cases of infectious disease were treated in the Sanatorium, and there were seven deaths occurred, five of these were diphtheria patients, one enteric, and one cerebro spinal meningitis.

The diphtheria cases were mostly of a very severe nature, and in a weak condition when admitted.

During the past year the work of the Sanatorium has been carried on by the Matron, Miss Wratten and her staff in a very satisfactory manner and every attention has been given to the patients admitted, owing to their being so many appointments open for Nurses and Maids a certain amount of anxiety has been caused by Nurses and Maids leaving, and the scarcity of labour has been the greatest trouble.

With the close of the year we were on the verge of the ending of the War, and it is to be hoped that as soon as possible many reforms so long needed for carrying on successfully the Public Health work of a district which is destined to grow rapidly such as ours will soon make progress.

(Signed) John Steel.

Medical Officer of Health

-and-

Medical Superintendent of the Sanatorium.
